

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
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JUN 06 2019

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

LAFAYETTE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VERSUS

HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS

* CRIMINAL NO.
*
* 18 U.S.C. § 247(a)(1)
* 18 U.S.C. § 844(h)
*
* 6:19-CR-00183-01
* Judge Summerhays
Magistrate Judge Whitehurst

INDICTMENT

THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY CHARGES:

COUNT ONE

Intentional Damage to Religious Property
[18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)]

On or about March 26, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, intentionally defaced, damaged, and destroyed, and attempted to deface, damage, and destroy, religious real property, specifically the St. Mary Baptist Church, located in Port Barre, Louisiana, because of the religious character of that property. The offense was in and affected interstate and foreign commerce, and the offense included the use, attempted use, and threatened use of fire. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 247(a)(1) and (d)(3). [18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)].

COUNT TWO

Using Fire to Commit a Felony
[18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)]

On or about March 26, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, used fire to commit a felony prosecutable in a court of the United States, that is the intentional destruction of religious property, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 247(a)(1), as charged in Count One of this Indictment, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(h)(1). [18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)].

COUNT THREE

Intentional Damage to Religious Property
[18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)]

On or about April 2, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, intentionally defaced, damaged, and destroyed, and attempted to deface, damage, and destroy, religious real property, specifically the Greater Union Baptist Church, located in Opelousas, Louisiana, because of the religious character of that property. The offense was in and affected interstate and foreign commerce, and the offense included the use, attempted use, and threatened use of fire. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 247(a)(1) and (d)(3). [18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)].

COUNT FOUR

Using Fire to Commit a Felony
[18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)]

On or about April 2, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, used fire to commit a felony prosecutable in a court of the United States, that is the intentional destruction of religious property, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 247(a)(1), as charged in Count Three of this Indictment, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(h)(1). [18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)].

COUNT FIVE

Intentional Damage to Religious Property
[18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)]

On or about April 4, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, intentionally defaced, damaged, and destroyed, and attempted to deface, damage, and destroy, religious real property, specifically the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, located in Opelousas, Louisiana, because of the religious character of that property. The offense was in and affected interstate and foreign commerce, and the offense included the use, attempted use, and threatened use of fire. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 247(a)(1) and (d)(3). [18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)].

COUNT SIX
Using Fire to Commit a Felony
[18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)]

On or about April 4, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, used fire to commit a felony prosecutable in a court of the United States, that is the intentional destruction of religious property, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 247(a)(1), as charged in Count Five of this Indictment, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(h)(1). [18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)].

A TRUE BILL
REDACTED

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